

WANDERERS WIN THREE OUT OF FOUR

But They Nearly Slip Up At Home To Oxford City

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 3, Oxford City 2

WHAT a scare Oxford gave Wycombe Wanderers on Monday. Wycombe, two goals up at half-time, almost threw the points away in the second-half of this August Blank Holiday game.

Blank? That's what Wycombe's performance was after a wonderful opening 16 minutes in which they scored two goals and threatened to crack up a resounding win over old rivals Oxford.

But in the end Wanderers scrambled—with a capital S—home, thanks to a grand second-half goal by full-back John Beck—his first for two years.

That was, after Oxford had knocked off the two-goal deficit, and had looked like strolling back over the border with the Wycombe scalp safely tucked away in their coach's boot.

I can see Wanderers losing some supporters if they insist on giving them this heart-in-the-mouth treatment.

It should have been all over by half-time.

OLD STORY

But no! It was the old story of: "O.K. lads, we're in front let's have a rest!" Again the old "killer" spirit was missing. And that's not just me talking—some of the players think so too.

Wanderers were one up through Bates in four minutes, and two up—via a Samuels header—in 16.

And Wanderers' fans thought they had it in their pockets.

How wrong they were! Maskell was called on to make several first-class saves—which were not easy with the greasy ball—and twice Beck cleared off the line.

Roystone played a stormer at left-back once again, and looked after 34-years-old Tony Bricknell—in his 19th season with City—in grand style: that was when Bricknell ventured out onto the wing out of the City's 4-3-3 set-up.

Heavy showers throughout made ball-play difficult, but once again Samuels put in a tremendous amount of work.

Merrick had a poor time on the left flank, and on the other side Worley showed in flashes. But he's going to land in trouble if he

doesn't cut out some of his temperamental tricks—like taking the ball out for a corner when he knows very well it's a goal-kick, and then leaving it there.

Woodley's goal for Oxford was a fine solo effort just after the interval, and then Bradbury headed home a corner to make it all square.

Wycombe's goals were both well taken. For the first Bates picked up a Worley pass and scored with his left foot. Then Samuels netted with a flying header to a well placed Gale centre.

Beck's winner was a cracker—smacked home from about 30 yards, entering the net off a defender.

Wanderers now have a 75 per cent record with three wins in four games.

Wycombe Wanderers—J. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Roystone; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.